

A message for family members

**from Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson,
MNB(E) Commander**

First, I want to thank all of our families for the tremendous support you have given, not only to your Soldiers, but to each other as well. From the beginning I have stressed that this deployment would require a team effort and you have been superb. Thank you for all your sacrifices.

Your Soldiers continue to do an outstanding job here in Kosovo. They remain dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo. They are motivated and focused on the task at hand. We will continue to stay focused until every Soldier departs Kosovo, goes through the redeployment process and arrives safely at his or her home station.

So the question that is foremost in everyone's mind is, when will this Task Force redeploy, and where will we redeploy to?

Currently we are scheduled to begin movement in late August to our redeployment station. As it stands now, we will redeploy to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Processing at Fort McCoy will take from three to ten days depending on a variety of factors. Once processing is complete, the Army will transport Soldiers back to the initial point they departed from last October. We are still working the details for the redeployment of Active Army Soldiers.

Once your Soldier returns to his or her home unit, the unit chain-of-command should be able to answer any questions you may have in regards to reintegration into the unit. This should include the reporting date, time and location for your soldier's



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next training period.

Remember that this is the plan as we know it today. I will continue to update you as I receive more information. In the meantime I ask you to remain patient, don't listen to or spread rumors, and continue to support your Soldiers in the same exceptional manner that you have already demonstrated.

Again, thank you for your continued support of your Soldiers and the Task Force. The Soldiers within MNB(E) are truly making a difference for the people of Kosovo.

Attack!

Music Legend Visits Bondsteel



Country music legend Charlie Daniels poses with a group of Soldiers, most of whom are with the 4-278th Armored Cavalry Regiment from Tennessee.

By Spc. Tim Grooms

On a warm day in early May, a bearded man stepped out of a van, walked toward a crowd of Soldiers and began talking to them like old friends. The group of Soldiers, most from Tennessee, gathered for a group picture with country music legend Charlie Daniels, also from Tennessee, who was in Kosovo for the day to support the troops deployed here.

After having his picture taken and eating lunch with the Soldiers, Daniels spent his day here performing in a concert and sitting through an autograph session before returning to Germany and a concert the next day.

In a time when money seems to be the greatest motivator, Daniels said it had nothing to do with his appearance here, which he made for free.

"We did this ourselves," he said. "We got transport from the National Guard, but we did it our-

selves. This is not a paying proposition."

Daniels said he made the trip to show his support for the troops here.

"It was great to perform for all the Tennessee Soldiers here, but also great to perform for everyone else," Daniels said. "We are just glad to do this for everybody."

Daniels wasn't the only one who enjoyed the experience. Many Soldiers said they were excited to see him perform.

"This means a lot because I am a big fan and he is a big hero," said Spc. Greg Smith, an avionics technician with the 4-278th Armored Cavalry Regiment. "He is one of the nicest men I have ever met."

With many people in the audience being from Tennessee, this was not the first time they have seen Daniels perform.

"I have seen him about 30 or 40 times," said Sgt. Jerry Hackler, a crew chief with the ACR. "He is a

great entertainer and a great patriot."

"He puts on a great show," said Spc. Brad Gray, an armament technician with the same unit. "I have seen him seven or eight times, and he put on a great show every time."

Soldiers got more than a show from Daniels since he also held an autograph session afterward.

"I play the fiddle and it's an honor to have him sign the fiddle," said Gray. "To me, he is the best fiddle player."

With the chance to see a famous musician perform, many Soldiers took time from their workday to see the Charlie Daniels Band play on the stage in Camp Bondsteel's South Town. With the speakers turned up loud, the band played many songs that were popular with the fans, but in the end the band played their most famous song and everyone stood up and cheered as the group played "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

MPs patrol with Kosovo Police

By Sgt. Jon Soucy

The group dressed in blue made their way down the crowded midday street inter-mixed with the group whose clothing mostly consisted of green. Cars, trucks and tractors passed by on the main street as the blue and green clad group turned down a side street. Questions were asked between members of the differently colored groups. Many of the queries were job related ones, but others covered

other subjects such as families and hometowns.

Soldiers from the 514th Military Police Company have had company with them recently as they patrol the streets of Gnjilane/ Gjilan. The MPs have been teaming up with officers from the Kosovo Police Service as they conduct walking patrols of the area.

For the Soldiers it's been a way to expand their knowledge of the region.

"They know the streets here," said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Daniels, a squad leader from Winterville, N.C., with the unit. "They can take us places we've never been and show us things we'd probably miss patrolling on our own."

The MPs, who patrol areas throughout Multi-national Brigade

(East), started working jointly with the KPS in March.

"We did a lot with the KPS during the riots," said Spc. Ivey Tripp, an MP from Greenville, N.C., with the unit. "We'd pick up a couple of their officers and go on patrol."

Though the MPs and the KPS jointly patrolled Gnjilane/ Gjilan during the riots, it wasn't until recently they started working together on a regular basis, said Tripp, and the MPs said that the advantages of patrolling with KPS officers go beyond the officer's geographic knowledge of the area.

"We get to know them better," said Tripp, who added he has enjoyed working with the KPS officers.

"They introduced us to a lot of the civilians," said Spc. Wayne Mitchell, an MP from Bath, N.C.,

with the unit. "We learn from them, they learn from us," said Mitchell, who added that one area the two groups learn from each other is in the methods they use to patrol the area.

In addition, the joint patrols give the Soldiers a chance to see more of the city.

"We walk a little slower," said Tripp of patrolling in a larger group with the KPS. "I get to see the sights."

But like many instances in Kosovo, Soldiers cited the language barrier as one of the obstacles to the patrols. In the end however, the Soldiers said they feel patrolling with the KPS officers is a beneficial opportunity.

"They're good guys and ladies to work with," said Daniels.



Sgt. Linwood Herring, left a military police officer with the 514th MP Company, confers with KPS officers about individuals listed in the Task Force Redhorse observe and detain booklet during a joint patrol in Gnjilane/ Gjilan.



Bullhorn From the Families

Be a part of the Bullhorn

Submit your helpful information, messages to the troops or tips on dealing with deployment to your Family Readiness Group leader or email them to FSGKosovo@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

Find helpful answers to your questions

Submitted by LeAnn Fobbs, Michigan

Army One Source (soon to be know as Military One Source) - This is an all inclusive place that you can use to ask **any** question (military or non-military related) either by phone or through the Web, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phones and e-mails are answered by live qualified staff (with the capability for translation into 140 languages). They can assist with military questions and anything else (literally). They have MANY educational materials available and even offer limited, no charge, counseling services in your own community. Contact information is as follows: 1-800-464-8107 (from Germany, Italy or Netherlands 00-800-4648-1077); TTY/TDD - 1-800-346-9188, En espaZol 1-888-375-5971. Access through the Web: www.armyonesource.com (initial user ID is army and Password is onesouce).

TRICARE has Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC) staff to assist with your questions and problems. BCAC is a Congressionally mandated initiative, implemented by the TRICARE Management Activity to improve customer service, satisfaction, enhance beneficiary education, and help reduce the volume of Congressional inquiries from beneficiaries.

The FY2000 National Defense Authorization Act mandated the establishment of Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator positions, full time at Lead Agent offices and collaterally at Military Treatment Facilities world-wide.

BCACs act as a preventive mechanism for trouble-shooting TRICARE and Military Health System issues and concerns. You may find your closest BCAC by visiting the Web site at:

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/beneficiary/beneficiary/BCACdir/BCACview.aspx>



Bullhorn Important Information

Contacting the Red Cross

Members of the National Guard and Reserves, retirees and civilians may access Red Cross services through their local Red Cross chapter. Red Cross chapters are listed in local telephone books and on the American Red Cross Web site at:

<http://www.redcross.org/where/where.html>.

When calling the Red Cross to send an emergency message to a family member, please have ready the

following information which will speed the process of sending your message:

- Service Member's Full Name
- Rank
- Branch of Service
- Social Security Number
- Military Address
- Information about the deployed unit



Visit Our Website

www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

for more pictures, stories, and information about the Soldiers.